White House Is Concerned At F.B.I. Release of Data

Nixon Aide Cites Individuals' Rights to Privacy and Fairness in Disclosure of File on President's Attorney

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WASHINGTON, March 8—The White House expressed "concern" today at the release of what it termed "raw, unevaluated material" from the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that linked a former high aide of President Nixon to an alleged political sabotage operation last year.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, refused comment on the substance of a bureau interview with Herbert W. Kalmbach, a California lawyer who is Mr. Nixon's attorney. A report of that interview was provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday by L. Patrick Gray 3d, acting director of the bureau.

But Mr. Ziegler did say that the White House shared the position taken by the American Civil Liberties Union in a letter to the committee Tuesday. The letter cautioned the committee to protect "the rights of individuals to their privacy and to procedural fairness" by shielding from public view any confidential material received in the hearings on the nomination of Mr. Gray to fill his post permanently.

In a written addition to his oral testimony, Mr. Gray disclosed yesterday that Mr. Kalmbach had told bureau agents he paid from $30,000 to $40,000 to Donald H. Segretti for unspecified "services" to the Republican party. He said that he had done so at the direction of Dwight L. Chapin, who was then the President's appointments secretary.

Friends and acquaintances of Mr. Segretti have said that he approached them in 1971 and 1972 to do various types of undercover work in behalf of the Republican party in the presidential primary elections.

Continued on Page 28, Column 1

Release of Data by F.B.I. Stirs White House Concern on Rights

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

The offers, in some cases accepted, involved spying on Democratic candidates and attempting to disrupt their campaigns, it was said.

Mr. Ziegler was asked today about statements he had made when the involvement of Mr. Chapin and Mr. Kalmbach was first reported last year. He replied, "I stand on what I said at that time"

The White House has never directly denied the news accounts. However, Mr. Ziegler denounced them in October as "hearsay, character-assassination, innuendo, guilt by association."

The report of the Kalmbach interview was given to the committee by Mr. Gray after he was unable to answer a question asked of him last week.

Fair Game 'For Hearings'

On Tuesday he told the Senators that, while their inquiries about the bureau's performance in investigating alleged bugging of the Democrats were "fair game" for public hearings, "the substantive record of the Watergage investigation raises very different questions.

He repeated his offer to allow any member of the Senate to read for himself the bureau's complete files on the case. But he asked for the committee's "guidance" in assuring that nothing would be discussed publicly that would affect "the right to privacy of those innocent persons whose names and activities are contained in our raw interview reports."

Several times since then, Mr. Gray has declined to make available for insertion into the public record certain items requested by committee members.

The only Senator who has so far accepted Mr. Gray's offer to read the files is Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska, the ranking Republican member on the committee. Mr. Hruska said that he spent six hours examining the files, the whole time in the company of two bureau agents who would not permit him to copy any of the materials or take notes.

Robert C. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, the Senate majority whip, who is Mr. Gray's strongest critic among the committee members, noted yesterday Mr. Gray's estimate that it would take five eight-hour days to read all the documents. In view of this, his offer "doesn't amount to a hill of beans" because few Senators would have the time to accept it, Mr. Byrd said.

Mr. Gray completed his preliminary testimony today after five days of intensive questioning as Democrats continued to charge that his actions as bureau director over the last 10 months evidenced a political quality that made him unsuited for the nonpartisan post.

Associated Press

McGeorge Bundy, former Presidential adviser, arriving to testify yesterday in Pentagon papers trial in Los Angeles.